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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toru KARASAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2173

Application No.: 10/048,027

Examiner: T. ZHOU

Filed: January 28, 2002

Docket No.: 111796

For: CREATION OF IMAGE DESIGNATION FILE AND REPRODUCTION OF IMAGE  
USING SAME

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the October 21, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally  
elect Group I, claims 1-10 and 20-21, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-37 is sufficiently  
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would  
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully  
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without  
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an  
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the  
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis  
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in  
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by  
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KMM/jfb

Date: November 9, 2004

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